

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, August 12, 2005

MPDC MOURNS THE LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH OF FIRST DISTRICT OFFICER JAMES MCBRIDE

The MPDC joins with family members, friends, co-workers and members of the First District community in mourning the untimely death of 1D Officer James McBride. At approximately 2 pm, on Tuesday, August 9, Officer McBride, age 25 and a two-year member of the MPDC, became ill while taking part in the second day of a five-day bicycle training course at the Maurice T. Turner Jr., Institute of Police Science. He was taken to the Washington Hospital Center and, tragically, was pronounced dead on Wednesday, August 10, at approximately 1:27 pm. The cause of death will be determined following an autopsy by the DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Chief Ramsey called Officer McBride an outstanding police officer who was honored as the 1D "Rookie of the Year" in 2004. "We have lost a beloved member of our family. The community has lost a valued and dedicated protector," the Chief said. Mayor Williams remarked, "Jim McBride was a young man who loved his city and who served it well in his short term of service," both as a police officer and, before that, as a member of the DC Emergency Management Agency. Officer McBride is receiving full police honors during a funeral on Saturday, August 13.

① Read the news release at:
<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=111000>

① Officer McBride is the second MPDC member to die in the line of duty this year, and the 112th in the proud history of the MPDC. View the Department's online memorial at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1233,q,539213,mpdcNav,|31457|.asp>

① Individuals may submit personal remembrances of Officer McBride, or any other MPDC member who died in the line of duty, at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1231,q,538723,mpdcNav,|31457|.asp>

17 OFFICERS OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST ARE HONORED

Just before midnight on April 26, 2005, a woman was savagely beaten and robbed of her automobile in the 1100 block of East Capitol Street, SE. Approximately five hours later, Officer Robert Wigton of the Sixth District alertly recognized the stolen vehicle in the 1500 block of Kenilworth Avenue, NE. He initiated a pursuit, and was soon joined by fellow 6D Officers Wade Zech and David Jarboe. The pursuit proceeded into the First District before the driver and two passengers bailed out of the vehicle. Officers Tommy Jones and Dave Evans of 1D were at the scene of the bailout. The team worked quickly and effectively: Officer Zech apprehended one of the assailants; Officer Jarboe apprehended a second suspect; and Officers Jones and Evans apprehended the last suspect following a foot pursuit. All three suspects were charged with Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle (UUV) and Robbery-Force and Violence. And they are being investigated in a number of violent armed carjackings in the community. For their quick actions and bravery, the five officers were recently honored as "officers of the month" during the August CHAMPS Awards ceremony. Twelve other members, from 6D and 7D, were also recognized.

① Read about the outstanding work of all of this month's "officers of the month" at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1234,q,557847,mpdcNav_GID,1544.asp

① CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is a monthly awards program hosted by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. The August awards luncheon was hosted by the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Northwest.

① Members of the public are invited to submit commendations for outstanding MPDC officers anytime, using the online form:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,548642,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp

CHIEF ANNOUNCES COMMAND STAFF CHANGES

As part of his ongoing efforts to enhance leadership and improve performance in the MPDC, Chief Ramsey has announced various changes to his Command Staff. Diane Groomes has been promoted to Commander and assigned to the First Police District, which includes much of downtown DC, as well as such neighborhoods as Capitol Hill, the Southwest waterfront, Sursum Corda and Lincoln Park. Groomes is a 15-year veteran of the Department who most recently served as Inspector in charge of the Third District substation (3D-1). She replaces Commander Thomas McGuire, who has been reassigned from the First District to Commander in charge of the Major Narcotics Branch, which is responsible for investigation and enforcement of both drug and prostitution laws. Chief Ramsey has also promoted Patrick Burke to Inspector in charge of 3D-1. Burke joined the Department in June 1989, and has distinguished himself in both neighborhood patrol and traffic safety assignments, most recently as captain in charge of the Traffic Safety Unit. Captain Melvin Gresham is assuming the leadership role in Traffic Safety. In addition, David Kamerpin has been promoted from lieutenant to captain and assigned to Major Narcotics.

CHIEF RAMSEY JOINS IN CALL FOR SUMMER BLOOD DONATIONS

Chief Ramsey this past week joined with the Greater Chesapeake & Potomac Region of the American Red Cross to call attention to the shortage of blood and the continued need for blood donors during this critical time. The Chief was the keynote speaker during a news conference, which also included personal testimonials to the need for blood donors from John Yates, a survivor of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon, and Anna Grossnickle, who received countless blood transfusions following a near fatal car accident in February 2004. Representing the DC Department of Health was its Director, Dr. Gregg Pane. "As police officers, the men and women of the MPDC understand – first-hand – the importance of maintaining a safe and sufficient blood supply on a daily basis," Ramsey said. "Every day, we encounter people who have been seriously hurt or injured in traffic crashes, shootings, stabbings and other accidents or criminal acts. For some of these victims, the availability of blood can, indeed, be a matter of life and death. And for those of us in law enforcement, the urgency of this issue hits close to home in another way: police officers can never know when one of us may be the one who is in need of blood." Officials noted that the Greater Chesapeake & Potomac Region needs to collect between 1,100 and 1,300 units of blood every day. But with many people on vacation or otherwise preoccupied during the summer months, blood shortages become critical.

NEWS & NOTES

New Phone Numbers for 5D. The Fifth District has new phone numbers generally beginning with the "698" prefix. For a roster and phone numbers of key personnel in 5D, visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,545975,mpdcNav_GID,1538.asp

DDOT Offers City Cycling Classes. The District Department of Transportation, in partnership with Arlington County, has announced a series of free, three-hour Saturday classes to teach bicyclists the skills they need to ride on city streets as part of their daily routines, whether for errands, commuting or just plain fun. Details at http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/cwp/view,a,1252,q,631326,ddotNav_GID,1610.asp

Talk with Chief Ramsey on August 16. Chief Ramsey is scheduled to discuss public safety issues and take phone calls during his monthly "Chatting with the Chief" segment on WHUR-96.3 FM, from 7:15-7:30 pm on Tuesday, August 16 (note the new time).

① The MPDC will be sponsoring a Blood Drive at Police Headquarters, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, on Friday, September 2, 2005. To sign up, call the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

① For complete information on how and where to donate blood, visit: <http://www.my-redcross.org/>

DATA BOX

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| Homicides | as of 8/12/05 |
| ◆ 2005: 117 | |
| ◆ 2004: 117 | |
| ◆ % Change: Unch. | |
| ◆ Closure Rate: 53.0% (62 closures) | |
| Adult Arrests | week end. 8/6/05 |
| ◆ Total: 927 | |
| ◆ Drugs: 185 | |
| ◆ Weapons: 14 | |
| ◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 13 | |
| ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 38 | |
| Juvenile Activity | week end. 8/6/05 |
| ◆ Arrests: 66 | |
| ◆ Curfew Violations: 75 | |
| ◆ Truants: 0 | |
| Firearm Recoveries | as of 8/10/05 |
| ◆ August: | |
| ◆ 2005 Total: 1,451 | |
| Traffic Fatalities | as of 8/12/05 |
| ◆ 2005: 24 | |
| ◆ 2004: 34 | |
| ◆ % Change: --29.4% | |

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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